WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring the performance of a digital networked system, wherein the system includes first and second platforms, the method comprising

generating a first value indicating a characteristic of operation of the first platform;

transferring the first value to the second platform;

obtaining a second value indicating a characteristic of operation of the second platform; and

combining the first and second values into a composite value by adjusting one of the first or second values to account for a difference in operation characteristics between the first and second platforms.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the difference in operation includes differences in the use of interrupts in processors in the first and second platforms.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the difference in operation includes differences in the use of threads in the first and second platforms.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the difference in operation includes differences in the use of forked processes in the first and second platforms.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the difference in operation includes differences in memory management in the first and second platforms.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second platforms use different types of operating systems.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second platforms use different types of central processing units.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second platforms support different types of operating environments.

24